

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2485

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1790

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, RO

SUBJECT: TRADE AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 094314

1. I MET BRIEFLY WITH DEPFOFNMIN GLIGA THIS AFTERNOON (APRIL 24) TO CONVEY NEWS TRADE PACKAGE PROBABLY WOULD GO TO CONGRESS TODAY AND TO REGISTER OUR CONCERN OVER PACE OF EMIGRATION BOTH TO U.S. AND TO ISRAEL. FYI: MACOVESCU WAS TIED UP ALL DAY WITH VISITING EAST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER. SINCE I AM LEAVING TOWN TONIGHT FOR PROVINCIAL TRIP FOR SEVERAL DAYS FORNMIN SUGGESTED I MEET WITH GLIGA.

2. GLIGA REGISTERED PLEASURE OVER NEWS TRADE PACKAGE WAS FINALLY BEING SENT TO THE HILL AND EXPRESSED HOPE IT WOULD BE PROMPTLY APPROVED. I REPLIED THE ADMINISTRATION HAD EARLIER HOPED THE SAME THING. BUT I SAID AS STATISTICS ON LOW RATE OF EMIGRATION IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS BEGAN TO REACH INTERESTED CONGRESSIONAL PARTIES THERE WAS PESSIMISM THAT LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE MIGHT ENCOUNTER CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION AND INDEED, IF PERFORMANCE DID NOT SHOW RAPID AND SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT THERE EVEN WAS POSSIBILITY CONGRESS MIGHT NOT GIVE ITS APPROVAL.

3. GLIGA REVIEWED PROBLEM CONCERNING THREE MONTH LAPSE IN ACTIVITY OF PASSPORT COMMISSION, BUT NOTED COMMISSION NOW REGULARLY MEETING (HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED TWO MEETINGS
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HAD TAKEN PLACE THIS MONTH AND ONE MORE LIKELY) BUT GAVE NO SPECIFIC FIGURES ON APPROVALS. HE REITERATED THAT ROMANIAN EMIGRATION POLICY REMAINED EXACTLY AS MACOVESCU HAD ASSURED ME DURING OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS. THERE WAS NO RPT NO CHANGE. I REPLIED THE PROBLEM WAS NOT ONE OF CONCERN ON OUR PART ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF THE ASSURANCES THE GOR HAD GIVEN US; THE PROBLEM WAS THE PRACTICAL POLITICAL REALITY OF THE LOW LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE TO DATE. I POINTED OUT THAT AS OF TODAY THE RATE OF EMIGRATION TO THE U.S. WAS ABOUT THE SAME AS LAST YEAR. I SAID SOMETHING SEEMED WRONG SINCE IT WAS MORE THAN TWO MONTHS SINCE WE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY THE MFA CONSULAR DIRECTORATE OF THE APPROVAL OF 36 PENDING CASES ON OUR REPRESENTATION LIST AND THAT THE APPROVAL WAS BEING EXPEDITED ON A LARGE NUMBER OF OTHER CASES. I ADDED THAT I UNDERSTOOD EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL HAD CONTINUED TO ALSO REMAIN AT A SIMILARLY LOW LEVEL.

4. GLIGA REMINDED ME THAT WE HAD TO EXPECT A CERTAIN LAG BETWEEN TIME WHEN PERMISSION GRANTED TO EMIGRATE AND APPLICANT HAD OVERCOME VARIOUS BUREAUCRATIC OBSTACLES (TAX CLEARANCES, PROPERTY SALES, ETC.) AND FINALLY HAD PASSPORT IN HAND. I AGREED BUT NOTED THAT WE HAD DOCUMENTED CASES OF PERSONS BEING TOLD BY THE MILITIA THAT THEY COULD NOT APPLY FOR EMIGRATION DESPITE OUR EARLIER UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY COULD. I SAID SUCH CASES MADE IT HARD NOT TO CONCLUDE THAT WORD HAD NOT FILTERED ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE WORKING LEVEL CONCERNING GOR EMIGRATION POLICY WITH RESPECT TO OUR REPRESENTATION LIST. GLIGA EVINCED SURPRISE SAYING EVERY TIME WE REPORTED SUCH A PROBLEM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD ASKED THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS TO FOLLOW UP PROPERLY AND SAID HE WOULD PROMPTLY TAKE UP MATTER AGAIN WITH APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD TRY TO ASCERTAIN WHAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A REASONABLE LAPSE OF TIME BETWEEN PASSPORT COMMISSION APPROVAL AND THE TIME APPLICANT SHOWS UP AT EMBASSY FOR IMMIGRANT VISA. FINALLY, HE AGREED TO SEE IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE AVAILALE TO US ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THE LATEST GOR PASSPORT APPROVAL STATISTICS. I ASKED FOR THESE DATA BY EARLY NEXT WEEK, AND HE SAID HE WOULD TRY TO GET SOMETHING TO US EVEN BY THE WEEKEND.
BARNES

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